

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: **Hikaru OKADA et al.**

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **Herewith**

For: **A FUEL GAS GENERATING APPARATUS
FOR A FUEL CELL**

Attorney Docket No.: **SIW-029**

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 4 and 9 as follows:

4. (Amended) A fuel gas generating apparatus for a fuel cell according to claim 1 wherein the temperature corresponding to the warm-up state of said reformer is detected, and when this detected temperature has become higher than a predetermined temperature, the supplied amount of reforming air that is increased by said reforming air amount control device during the warm-up of the reformer is then decreased.
9. (Amended) A fuel gas generating apparatus for a fuel cell according to claim 1 wherein said reformer and CO eliminator supply the fuel gas to the fuel cell after it has been determined that the warm-up has completed.

REMARKS

Preliminary to examination of this application, please amend claims 4 and 9 as set forth above. These amendments attend to minor formal matters by removing multiple dependencies, and are not related to issues of patentability. Support for the amendment to the claim can be found throughout the specification, Figures and claims as originally filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments introduce no new matter. Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is in order and requested.

If there are any questions regarding the proposed amendments to the application, we invite the Examiner to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: **December 21, 2001**

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 4 and 9 as follows:

4. (Amended) A fuel gas generating apparatus for a fuel cell according to claims 1 through 3 wherein the temperature corresponding to the warm-up state of said reformer is detected, and when this detected temperature has become higher than a predetermined temperature, the supplied amount of reforming air that is increased by said reforming air amount control device during the warm-up of the reformer is then decreased.

9. (Amended) A fuel gas generating apparatus for a fuel cell according to ~~any~~ claims 1 and 7 wherein said reformer and CO eliminator supply the fuel gas to the fuel cell after it has been determined that the warm-up has completed.